AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, comprising:

receiving a first wager, via a user interface device, from a player;

using a processor to randomly determine ~~determining~~ a first game outcome;

providing the player with a game asset for the first game outcome being a predetermined game outcome, the game asset indicating one of a plurality of game segments that the player is eligible to play for progressing the wagering game, each game segment associated with multiple award amounts, the game asset for altering a second game outcome;

randomly determining the second game outcome;

receiving the game asset from the player;

altering the second game outcome to obtain a modified game outcome in response to the game asset; and

awarding the player for a winning modified game outcome.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 1, including awarding the player for a winning first game outcome, a winning second game outcome, or a combination thereof.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

4.   (Original) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 1, wherein the game asset is in the form of a ticket.

5.   (Original) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 4, wherein receiving the game asset is inserting the ticket into a bill validator associated with the gaming machine.

6.   (Original) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 1, wherein receiving the game asset is inserting a data storage medium into a player-tracking card reader associated with the gaming machine.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 1, wherein awarding the winning modified game outcome includes awarding at least one of the multiple award amounts the game asset transforms a predetermined symbol into a wild symbol.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 1, wherein altering the second game outcome includes using the game asset to progress the wagering game from a prior terminated state the game asset transposes symbols into new positions.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 1, wherein ~~each of the multiple award amounts increases as the player progresses from one of the~~ plurality of game segments to another ~~the game asset creates a new pay line~~.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 1, further comprising receiving a second wager from the player.

11.   (Original) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 1, wherein the player is provided a plurality of game assets.

12.   (Original) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 11, wherein less than all of the game assets are received from the player.

13.   (Original) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 12, wherein the combination of game assets received from the player determines the modified game outcome.

Claims 14-20 (Cancelled)

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a wagering game having a series of progressive game levels on a gaming machine, each of the game levels having associated awards that change as the player progresses through the game levels, the method comprising:

        receiving a first wager from a player via a user interface device;

        using a processor to randomly determine ~~determining~~ a first game outcome;

        associating the first game outcome with a [[the]] corresponding game level;

providing a game asset in response to cashing out of the gaming machine, the game asset

for storing the corresponding game level, the corresponding game level associated with at least

two awards;

receiving a second wager from the player;

receiving the game asset from the player;

configuring the wagering game in response to the game asset to the corresponding game

level;

randomly determining a second game outcome; and

awarding ~~making an award to~~ the player for a winning second game outcome, ~~the award~~

corresponding to the game level attained.

22.   (Original)   The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 21,

including awarding the player for a winning first game outcome.

23.   (Original)   The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 21, wherein

the game asset is in the form of a ticket.

24.   (Original)   The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 23, wherein

receiving the game asset is inserting the ticket into a bill validator associated with the gaming

machine.

25.   (Original)   The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 21, wherein

the game levels represent segments of an overall game.

26.   (Currently Amended) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 21, wherein the associated awards increase with each corresponding game level played ~~each of the series of game levels corresponds to an award amount~~.

Claims 27-34 (Cancelled)

35.   (Currently Amended) A method of modifying a wagering game, comprising:

providing a player with a game asset associated with a game outcome on a first gaming machine, the game asset indicating at least one of a plurality of game segments that the player is eligible to play, each of the plurality of game segments having predetermined awards;

receiving the [[a]] game asset in a second gaming machine that conducts the wagering game; and

modifying the wagering game based on the received game asset.

36.   (Currently Amended) The method of modifying a wagering game as described in claim 35, wherein the step of modifying the wagering game includes using the at least one of the plurality of game segments to progress the wagering game and award the player with at least two of the predetermined awards ~~provides the player with a higher probability of a winning game outcome~~.

37.   (Currently Amended) The method of modifying a wagering game as described in claim 35, wherein the predetermined awards increase with each game segment played ~~step of modifying the wagering game provides the player with a larger potential award~~.

38.   (Currently Amended) The method of modifying a wagering game as described in claim 35, wherein the step of modifying the wagering game includes providing ~~provides~~ the player with ~~a predetermined game segment~~ one of the at least one of the plurality of game segments that is associated with a prior terminated game state.

39.   (Currently Amended) The method of conducting a wagering game of claim 1, wherein the second game outcome is a bonus game for providing an award.

40.   (Currently Amended) The method of conducting a wagering game of claim 39, wherein the bonus game includes ~~asset is~~ a multiplier.

41.   (Currently Amended) The method of conducting a wagering game as described in claim 39, wherein the bonus game includes ~~asset is~~ a credit value added to the second game outcome.

42.   Cancelled.